**Undergraduate Courses**

509. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a ) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has formulated a scheme to bring together a cluster of colleges to pool their resources to set up joint ventures for introduction of undergraduate courses in the merging areas of bio-technology, genetics and bio-informatics, which require huge investment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the studies conducted, if any, to make the scheme economically viable and also the administrative structure proposed to facilitate its easy implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the scheme has not been approved by the Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

**Education for rural children**

†510. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a ) whether it is a fact that the children of more than 75 per cent families residing in rural areas take admission even now in Government schools for study;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the condition of most of the schools in rural areas is very poor and requires overall reforms;

(c) if so, whether Government have identified such reforms;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by Government to improve the level of education among the children of rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY Of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

According to 6th All India Education Survey (30th September, 1993) conducted by NCERT, 81,63% of students in rural areas study in Government or local body schools;

(b) to (e) As far as the schools run by the Central Government are concerned, improvement is a continuous process and is attended to from time to time as and when the need arises. However, most schools come under the purview of State Governments and it is for them to provide required facilities.

**Mid-Day Meal in Uttar Pradesh**

511. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a ) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has approached the Centre for release of funds for Mid-Day Meal Scheme in that State for the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) whether the additional expenditure of Rs. 33.19 crore incurred on the scheme by the State Government for the year 2004-05 has also been reimbursed, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE *N* THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Uttar Pradesh submitted a proposal for release of Rs.23076.00 lakhs towards Central assistance to meet cooking cost under Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Details of the said proposal are as under:—

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Release of first instalment of 2005-06 | Rs. 21553 lakh |
| (2) | Reimbursement of additional amount already incurred in 2004-05 | Rs. 1523 lakh |

As regards (1) above, after examination of the proposal, Government of Uttar Pradesh was released Rs. 21553 lakhs in August, 2005.

With regard to (2) above, since the State Government had not furnished justification for additional demand, the same was not released.